Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 09778 241006Z ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 FEA-01 AS-01 /118 W

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R 240830Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1549
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA

CONFIDENTIAL MANILA 9778

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

GENEVA FOR USDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ASEAN, RP

SUBJECT: ASEAN: INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS

REF: A. TOKYO 8851 B. TOKYO 8975

1. MEETING OF ASEAN INDUSTRIAL POLICY COMMITTEE TOOK PLACE IN MANILA JUNE 16-17. AMBASSADOR ROSARIO MANALO, ASEAN SECRETARIAT OF PHILIPPINE DFA, TOLD EMBOFF THAT FINAL FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THAILAND'S ROCK SALT-SODA ASH PROJECT WOULD BE FINISHED IN EARLY 1978 AND WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 09778 241006Z

PRONOUNCE PROJECT ECONOMICALLY VIABLE. PROSPECTS FOR THE OTHER FOUR INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS DO NOT, HOWEVER, LOOK SO ROSY, AND NONE OF THE FOUR MAY MOVE FORWARD.

2. JAPANESE DIPLOMATS (SEE REFTELS) MET WITH COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON JUNE 18 AS PLANNED FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS IN PREPARATION FOR JAPAN'S PARTICIPATION IN ASEAN SUMMIT

IN AUGUST. MANALO STATED (AND CONFIRMED TO REPORTING OFFICER WHEN ASKED) THAT JAPANESE HAD TENTATIVELY AGREED TO ONE BILLION DOLLARS IN SUPPORTOF FIVE PROJECTS WITHOUT, HOWEVER, DECIDING HOW FUNDING SHOULD BE DIVIDED AMONG PROJECTS. (COMMENTS JAPANESE EMBASSY SOURCE CATEGORICALLY DENIED GOJ HAD MADE ANY SUCH TENTATIVE COMMITMENT. GOJ POSITION REMAINS THAT NO CONCRETE COMMITMENT CAN BE MADE BEFORE A DOCUMENTED PROJECT IS PROPOSED).

MANALO WENT ON TO SAY THAT ASEAN WOULD PREFER THAT THE PROJECTS WERE NOT RPT NOT FUNDED ENTIRELY BY JAPANESE, AND THAT MORE DESIRABLE ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE JOINT FUNDING BY JAPANESE, AMERICANS AND AUSTRALIANS.

3. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR MANALO'S REMARKS ON FUNDING APPEAR TO BE A CLUMSY ATTEMPT TO DENY RUMORS THAT ASEAN IS HAVING GREAT DIFFICULTY OBTAINING FINANCING FOR THE FIVE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS. PHILIPPINE INDUSTRY SECRETARY PATERNO, WHO IS AT PRESENT SERVING AS CHAIRMAN OF ASEAN COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY, MADE A SIMILAR STATEMENT LAST WEEK. THIS IS, HOWEVER, THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE HAD SUCH A CLEAR STATEMENT THAT FOUR OF FIVE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS ARE IN TROUBLE -- SOMETHING WE HAVE SUSPECTED FOR SOME TIME.

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PAGE 03 MANILA 09778 241006Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

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Subject: ASEAN: INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS TAGS: EIND, PORG, OCON, RP, JA, ASEAN

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